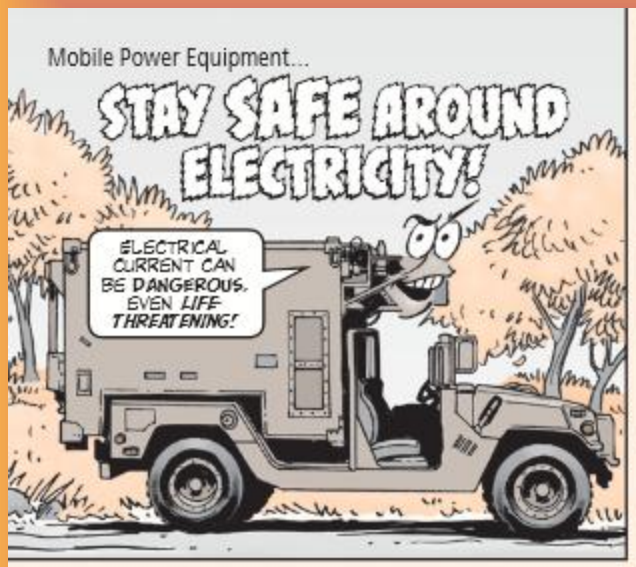
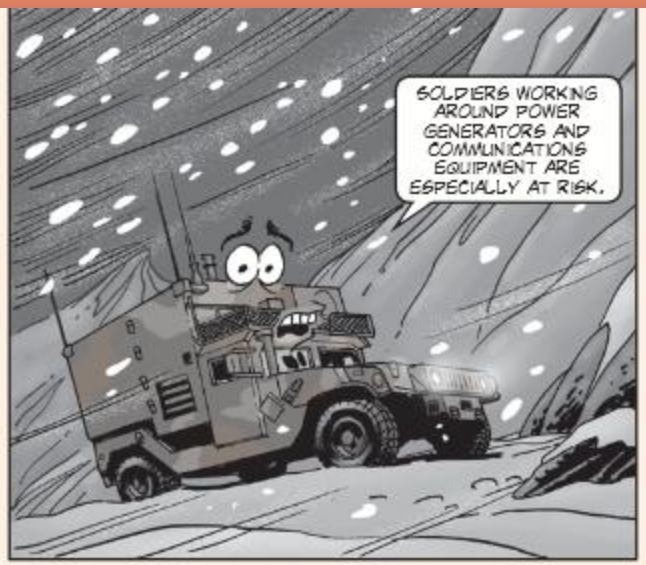
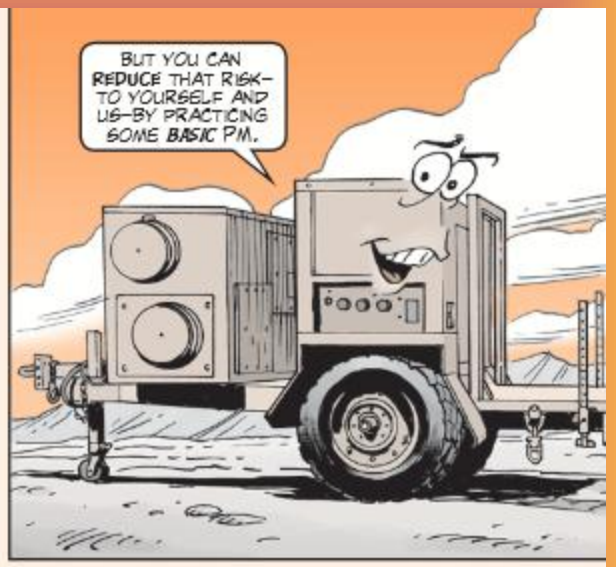
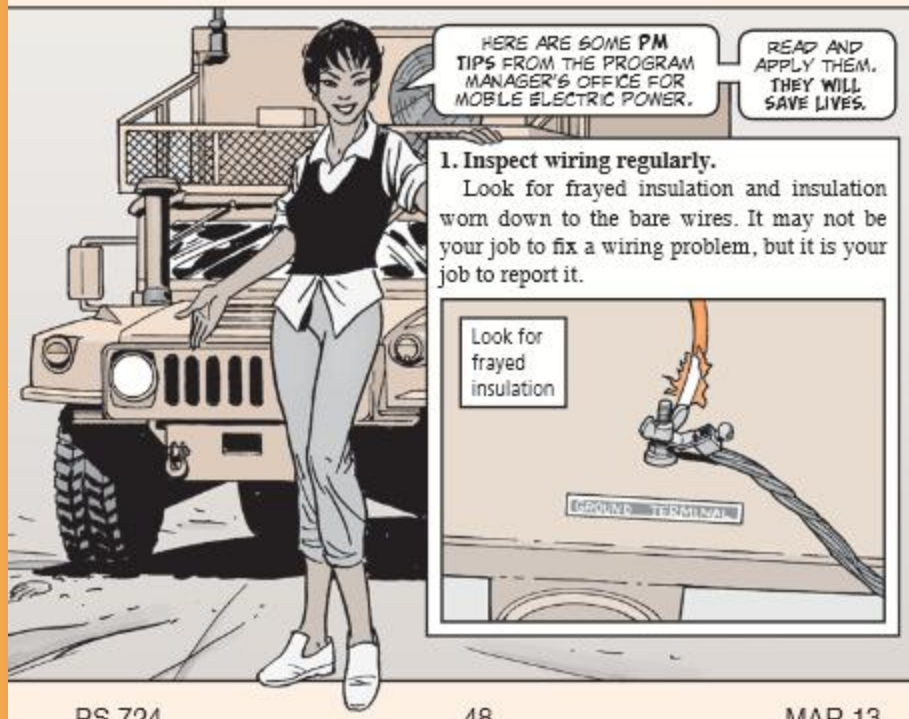
Mobile Power Equipment...

STAY SAFE AROUND ELECTRICITY!









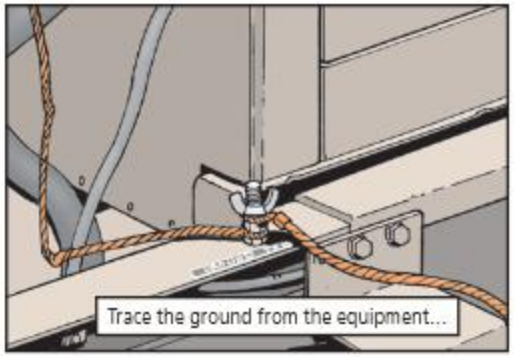
1. Inspect wiring regularly.

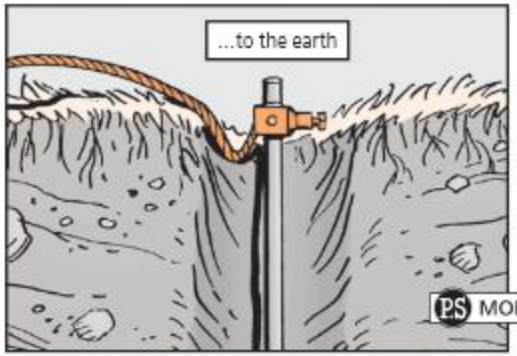
Look for frayed insulation and insulation worn down to the bare wires. It may not be your job to fix a wiring problem, but it is your job to report it.

2. Check for grounds.

Every ground has two ends. At one end, the grounding wire is attached to a piece of equipment or a shelter. At the other end, the grounding wire is attached to a ground rod firmly planted in the earth.

The grounding wire should not be frayed or spliced. Make sure good compression connections, such as a lug-and-bolt, are used to attach the grounding wire to the equipment and the ground rod. Clips won't do the job. Never operate generators or equipment when the grounding electrode conductor is disconnected or you are working on it. If you do, stray voltage could hurt you or your equipment.





PS MORE

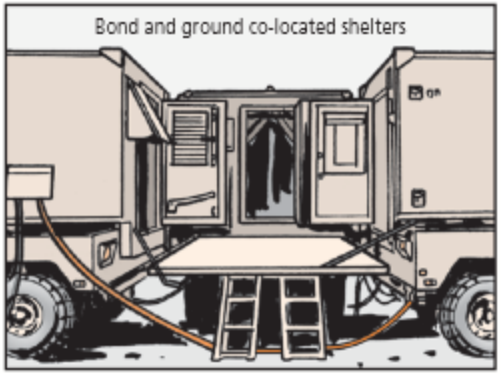
3. Equipment grounding conductors (EGCs) or bonding wires are just as important as earth grounds.

Check them also. They are there for your protection. EGCs are usually the green wire in the cable bundle that connects to the generator. Check to make sure EGCs or bonding wires are in place. Make sure they are not broken. Check connections to make sure they are tight.

Equipment specialists need to ensure that a low-impedance path to clear the mobile power equipment circuit breakers is in place and intact. Use your TM to check for a damaged EGC and the steps to take if you find one.

4. Co-located shelters need to be both grounded and bonded.

Bonding is when you electrically connect two shelters to keep them at the same voltage. A voltage difference between two shelters can lead to shocks and even electrocution. The best place for this bond is at the ground connections of the co-located equipment and shelters.

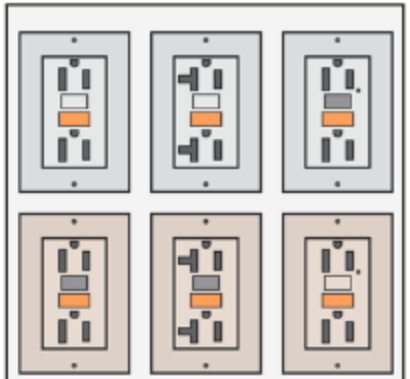


Bond and ground co-located shelters

5. Check all ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and circuit breakers monthly.

They are for your protection. But if they are not maintained, they will not work. And if they don't work, they won't protect anyone.

Check the GFCIs and circuit breakers to make sure they haven't tripped. If they have tripped, the switch or lever will not be fully seated. GFCIs usually have a separate indicator that pops out when tripped. It's also a good idea to turn breakers off and back on to make sure the switches move.



Press test buttons to make sure GFCIs work

Circuit breakers should never be used as a switch, unless they're designed to be one like on most generators and CE shelters. If a circuit breaker repeatedly trips, there is a reason. There is either an overcurrent, a short to ground or an equipment malfunction. All are dangerous conditions.